

Assembly Bill No. 1346

CHAPTER 693

An act to amend Sections 3099 and 3099.2 of the Labor Code, relating to employment.

[Approved by Governor October 9, 2011. Filed with
Secretary of State October 9, 2011.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1346, Atkins. Division of Apprenticeship Standards: certification of electricians.

Existing law requires the Division of Apprenticeship Standards in the Department of Industrial Relations to establish standards for certification of electricians, as defined, and requires the division to establish an advisory committee and panels as necessary. Existing law also requires the division to establish an electrical certification curriculum committee. The committee must establish standards for enrollees of specified training programs. If an educational provider's curriculum meets those standards, the committee must designate that curriculum as approved. The approved curriculum is subject to the committee's review, and the committee may withdraw its approval if the educational provider does not continue to meet those standards. The committee must require a designated provider to submit an annual notice stating whether the provider continues to offer the approved curriculum and whether material changes have been made to the curriculum since its approval.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions.

Existing law requires that persons performing work as electricians for specified contractors be certified pursuant to certification standards established by the division.

This bill would require individuals desiring to be certified to submit an application for certification and examination that includes an employment history report from the Social Security Administration.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 3099.2 of the Labor Code proposed by SB 944, to be operative only if SB 944 and this bill are both chaptered and become effective on or before January 1, 2012, and this bill is chaptered last.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3099 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

3099. (a) The Division of Apprenticeship Standards shall do all of the following:

(1) On or before July 1, 2001, establish and validate minimum standards for the competency and training of electricians through a system of testing and certification.

(2) On or before March 1, 2000, establish an advisory committee and panels as necessary to carry out the functions under this section. There shall be contractor representation from both joint apprenticeship programs and unilateral nonunion programs in the electrical contracting industry.

(3) On or before July 1, 2001, establish fees necessary to implement this section.

(4) On or before July 1, 2001, establish and adopt regulations to enforce this section.

(5) Issue certification cards to electricians who have been certified pursuant to this section. Fees collected pursuant to paragraph (3) are continuously appropriated in an amount sufficient to pay the costs of issuing certification cards, and that amount may be expended for that purpose by the division.

(6) On or before July 1, 2003, establish an electrical certification curriculum committee comprised of representatives of the State Department of Education, the California Community Colleges, and the division. The following shall apply to the electrical certification curriculum committee:

(A) The committee shall establish written educational curriculum standards for enrollees in training programs established pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(B) If an educational provider's curriculum meets the written educational curriculum standards established in accordance with subparagraph (A), the committee shall designate that curriculum as an approved curriculum of classroom instruction.

(C) The committee may review the approved curriculum of classroom instruction of any designated educational provider. The committee may withdraw its approval of the curriculum if the educational provider does not continue to meet the established written educational curriculum standards.

(D) The committee shall require each designated educational provider to submit an annual notice to the committee stating whether the educational provider is continuing to offer the approved curriculum of classroom instruction and whether any material changes have been made to the curriculum since its approval.

(b) There shall be no discrimination for or against any person based on membership or nonmembership in a union.

(c) As used in this section, "electricians" includes all persons who engage in the connection of electrical devices for electrical contractors licensed pursuant to Section 7058 of the Business and Professions Code, specifically, contractors classified as electrical contractors in the Contractors' State License Board Rules and Regulations. This section does not apply to electrical connections under 100 volt-amperes. This section does not apply to persons performing work to which Section 7042.5 of the Business and Professions Code is applicable, or to electrical work ordinarily and

customarily performed by stationary engineers. This section does not apply to electrical work in connection with the installation, operation, or maintenance of temporary or portable electrical equipment performed by technicians in the theatrical, motion picture production, television, hotel, exhibition, or trade show industries.

SEC. 2. Section 3099.2 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

3099.2. (a) (1) Persons who perform work as electricians shall become certified pursuant to Section 3099 by the deadline specified in this subdivision. After the applicable deadline, uncertified persons shall not perform electrical work for which certification is required.

(2) The deadline for certification as a general electrician or fire/life safety technician is January 1, 2006, except that persons who applied for certification prior to January 1, 2006, have until January 1, 2007, to pass the certification examination. The deadline for certification as a residential electrician is January 1, 2007, and the deadline for certification as a voice data video technician or a nonresidential lighting technician is January 1, 2008. The California Apprenticeship Council may extend the certification date for any of these three categories of electricians up to January 1, 2009, if the council concludes that the existing deadline will not provide persons sufficient time to obtain certification, enroll in an apprenticeship or training program, or register pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(3) For purposes of any continuing education or recertification requirement, individuals who become certified prior to the deadline for certification shall be treated as having become certified on the first anniversary of their certification date that falls after the certification deadline.

(4) Individuals desiring to be certified shall submit an application for certification and examination that includes an employment history report from the Social Security Administration. The individual may redact his or her social security number from the employment history report before it is submitted.

(b) (1) Certification is required only for those persons who perform work as electricians for contractors licensed as class C-10 electrical contractors under the Contractors' State License Board Rules and Regulations.

(2) Certification is not required for persons performing work for contractors licensed as class C-7 low voltage systems or class C-45 electric sign contractors as long as the work performed is within the scope of the class C-7 or class C-45 license, including incidental and supplemental work as defined in Section 7059 of the Business and Professions Code, and regardless of whether the same contractor is also licensed as a class C-10 contractor.

(3) Certification is not required for work performed by a worker on a high-voltage electrical transmission or distribution system owned by a local publicly owned electric utility, as defined in Section 224.3 of the Public Utilities Code; an electrical corporation, as defined in Section 218 of the Public Utilities Code; a person, as defined in Section 205 of the Public Utilities Code; or a corporation, as defined in Section 204 of the Public Utilities Code; when the worker is employed by the utility or a licensed

contractor principally engaged in installing or maintaining transmission or distribution systems.

(c) The division shall establish separate certifications for general electrician, fire/life safety technician, residential electrician, voice data video technician, and nonresidential lighting technician.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for registered apprentices performing electrical work as part of an apprenticeship program approved under this chapter, a federal Office of Apprenticeship program, or a state apprenticeship program authorized by the federal Office of Apprenticeship. An apprentice who is within one year of completion of his or her term of apprenticeship shall be permitted to take the certification examination and, upon passing the examination, shall be certified immediately upon completion of the term of apprenticeship.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for any person employed pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for a nonresidential lighting trainee (1) who is enrolled in an on-the-job instructional training program approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3090, and (2) who is under the onsite supervision of a nonresidential lighting technician certified pursuant to Section 3099.

(g) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the qualifying person for a class C-10 electrical contractor license issued by the Contractors' State License Board need not also be certified pursuant to Section 3099 to perform electrical work for that licensed contractor or to supervise an uncertified person employed by that licensed contractor pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(h) Commencing July 1, 2009, the following shall constitute additional grounds for disciplinary proceedings, including suspension or revocation of the license of a class C-10 electrical contractor pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 7090) of Chapter 9 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code:

(1) The contractor willfully employs one or more uncertified persons to perform work as electricians in violation of this section.

(2) The contractor willfully fails to provide the adequate supervision of uncertified workers required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 3099.4.

(3) The contractor willfully fails to provide adequate supervision of apprentices performing work pursuant to subdivision (d).

(i) The Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards shall develop a process for referring cases to the Contractors' State License Board when it has been determined that a violation of this section has likely occurred. On or before July 1, 2009, the chief shall prepare and execute a memorandum of understanding with the Registrar of Contractors in furtherance of this section.

(j) Upon receipt of a referral by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards alleging a violation under this section, the Registrar of Contractors shall open an investigation. Any disciplinary action

against the licensee shall be initiated within 60 days of the receipt of the referral. The Registrar of Contractors may initiate disciplinary action against any licensee upon his or her own investigation, the filing of any complaint, or any finding that results from a referral from the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards alleging a violation under this section. Failure of the employer or employee to provide evidence of certification or trainee status shall create a rebuttable presumption of violation of this provision.

(k) For the purposes of this section, “electricians” has the same meaning as the definition set forth in Section 3099.

SEC. 2.5. Section 3099.2 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

3099.2. (a) (1) Persons who perform work as electricians shall become certified pursuant to Section 3099 by the deadline specified in this subdivision. After the applicable deadline, uncertified persons shall not perform electrical work for which certification is required.

(2) The deadline for certification as a general electrician or fire/life safety technician is January 1, 2006, except that persons who applied for certification prior to January 1, 2006, have until January 1, 2007, to pass the certification examination. The deadline for certification as a residential electrician is January 1, 2007, and the deadline for certification as a voice data video technician or a nonresidential lighting technician is January 1, 2008. The California Apprenticeship Council may extend the certification date for any of these three categories of electricians up to January 1, 2009, if the council concludes that the existing deadline will not provide persons sufficient time to obtain certification, enroll in an apprenticeship or training program, or register pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(3) For purposes of any continuing education or recertification requirement, individuals who become certified prior to the deadline for certification shall be treated as having become certified on the first anniversary of their certification date that falls after the certification deadline.

(4) Individuals desiring to be certified shall submit an application for certification and examination that includes an employment history report from the Social Security Administration. The individual may redact his or her social security number from the employment history report before it is submitted.

(b) (1) Certification is required only for those persons who perform work as electricians for contractors licensed as class C-10 electrical contractors under the Contractors’ State License Board Rules and Regulations.

(2) Certification is not required for persons performing work for contractors licensed as class C-7 low voltage systems or class C-45 sign contractors as long as the work performed is within the scope of the class C-7 or class C-45 license, including incidental and supplemental work as defined in Section 7059 of the Business and Professions Code, and regardless of whether the same contractor is also licensed as a class C-10 contractor.

(3) Certification is not required for work performed by a worker on a high-voltage electrical transmission or distribution system owned by a local publicly owned electric utility, as defined in Section 224.3 of the Public Utilities Code; an electrical corporation, as defined in Section 218 of the

Public Utilities Code; a person, as defined in Section 205 of the Public Utilities Code; or a corporation, as defined in Section 204 of the Public Utilities Code; when the worker is employed by the utility or a licensed contractor principally engaged in installing or maintaining transmission or distribution systems.

(c) The division shall establish separate certifications for general electrician, fire/life safety technician, residential electrician, voice data video technician, and nonresidential lighting technician.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for registered apprentices performing electrical work as part of an apprenticeship program approved under this chapter, a federal Office of Apprenticeship program, or a state apprenticeship program authorized by the federal Office of Apprenticeship. An apprentice who is within one year of completion of his or her term of apprenticeship shall be permitted to take the certification examination and, upon passing the examination, shall be certified immediately upon completion of the term of apprenticeship.

(e) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for any person employed pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), certification is not required for a nonresidential lighting trainee (1) who is enrolled in an on-the-job instructional training program approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3090, and (2) who is under the onsite supervision of a nonresidential lighting technician certified pursuant to Section 3099.

(g) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the qualifying person for a class C-10 electrical contractor license issued by the Contractors' State License Board need not also be certified pursuant to Section 3099 to perform electrical work for that licensed contractor or to supervise an uncertified person employed by that licensed contractor pursuant to Section 3099.4.

(h) Commencing July 1, 2009, the following shall constitute additional grounds for disciplinary proceedings, including suspension or revocation of the license of a class C-10 electrical contractor pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 7090) of Chapter 9 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code:

(1) The contractor willfully employs one or more uncertified persons to perform work as electricians in violation of this section.

(2) The contractor willfully fails to provide the adequate supervision of uncertified workers required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 3099.4.

(3) The contractor willfully fails to provide adequate supervision of apprentices performing work pursuant to subdivision (d).

(i) The Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards shall develop a process for referring cases to the Contractors' State License Board when it has been determined that a violation of this section has likely occurred. On or before July 1, 2009, the chief shall prepare and execute a memorandum of understanding with the Registrar of Contractors in furtherance of this section.

(j) Upon receipt of a referral by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards alleging a violation under this section, the Registrar of Contractors shall open an investigation. Any disciplinary action against the licensee shall be initiated within 60 days of the receipt of the referral. The Registrar of Contractors may initiate disciplinary action against any licensee upon his or her own investigation, the filing of any complaint, or any finding that results from a referral from the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards alleging a violation under this section. Failure of the employer or employee to provide evidence of certification or trainee status shall create a rebuttable presumption of violation of this provision.

(k) For the purposes of this section, “electricians” has the same meaning as the definition set forth in Section 3099.

SEC. 3. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 3099.2 of the Labor Code proposed by both this bill and SB 944. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2012, (2) each bill amends Section 3099.2 of the Labor Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 944, in which case Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.